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WORLD ASSEMBLY ON AGING

Preparatory Meeting for the
ECE Region

Vienna (Austria), 26-30 April 1982

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General

At the invitation of the Government of Austria the Preparatory Meeting for the ECE Region for the World Assembly on Aging will be held at the Vienna International Centre, from 26 to 30 April 1982.

It has been convened by the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs as part of the preparatory process leading up to the World Assembly on Aging, to be held in Vienna (Austria) in July 1982 in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 33/52 and 34/153, and in particular with operative paragraph 2(a) of the latter resolution in which the Assembly requested the Secretary General of the United Nations:

> "to consider measures for strengthening the activities of the regional bodies concerned designed to increase awareness of and to collect basic data on the situation of the aging which could serve as a basis for information for regional preparatory meetings leading to the World Assembly [on Aging] in 1982".

The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe has undertaken to provide substantive support for this meeting, as part of the Commission's contribution to the global programmes and objectives of the United Nations aiming at economic development and in support of other United Nations programmes.

The Preparatory Meeting has been preceded by two technical meetings, covering Europe (held in Frankfurt-am-Main at the invitation of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany from 10 to 12 June 1981), and North America (held in Washington D.C., from 15 to 19 June 1981). The first of these technical meetings also had before it a joint report on the situation of aging in eastern Europe prepared by the Institute of Gerontology of the Academy of Medical Sciences, Kiev (Ukrainian SSR) together with other gerontological institutes for east European countries.

The objectives of the meeting are:

a) To provide a forum in which high-level officials from ECE member countries may discuss common issues and exchange information and experiences relating to existing policies with regard to aging and programmes designed for the aged population;

b) To discuss in depth specific humanitarian and developmental issues relating to aging and the aged, as a regional input into the documentation required for the World Assembly;

c) To propose a regional programme of action as a contribution to an international plan of action to be considered by the World Assembly.

Adoption of the agenda (item 1)

The provisional agenda as contained in document WAA/ECE/RPM/1 will be presented to the meeting for adoption.

Election of officers (item 2)

The meeting is expected to elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from among the representatives of the Governments attending the meeting.

Demographic trends and aging in the ECE region (item 3)

Under this item of the agenda a factual presentation will be made of demographic trends and aging in the ECE region, supported by statistical data which will be contained in document WAA/ECE/RPM/R.1 to be circulated shortly before the meeting.

Exchange of views on policies and practices related to aging (item 4)

This item is designed to provide an opportunity for participating Governments and organizations to inform the meeting of national policies and other programmes of relevance to the purpose of the meeting, and to facilitate an exchange of views among Governments on ways and means of dealing with issues of the aging, including the machinery required for administrative and legislative action.

Participants wishing to provide such information in written form are invited to send it in advance to the secretariat of the meeting at the following address:

The Secretary General,
World Assembly on Aging
Vienna International Centre
P.O. Box 500
A-1400 VIENNA
Austria

In order to permit circulation of this information among the participants, at least 50 copies should be provided in one of the working languages of the meeting (English, French and Russian).

Developmental and humanitarian aspects of aging in the ECE region (item 5)

For the consideration of this item the meeting will have before it a background paper, prepared by the ECE secretariat, entitled "Aging: developmental and humanitarian issues" (WAA/ECE/RPM/R.2). This document is based largely on the documentation and the reports of the two technical meetings mentioned under "General" above.

This document treats developmental aspects of aging from the economic point of view in terms of its impact on economic and social development, on labour supply, productivity and employment, on consumption and savings and on income distribution.

The humanitarian aspects dealt with cover income and social security, social services, health and health care, housing and environment, and the elderly and the family.

It is hoped that the discussion under this item will enable the meeting to identify action needed at the national, regional and international levels and to consider, in particular, how countries can, through increased international co-operation, derive benefit from the knowledge and experience already acquired regarding the various issues of the aging.

Draft regional programme of action (item 6)

The draft of a regional programme of action on aging for the ECE region, prepared by the ECE secretariat, will be circulated to ECE member Governments prior to the meeting (WAA/ECE/RPM/R.3). The meeting is expected to agree on the final text of this programme which will be submitted to the World Assembly on Aging. The meeting may wish to set up a drafting group to establish the final text of the Programme of Action which the meeting is expected to adopt under this item of the agenda.

Other business (item 7)

At the time of writing the secretariat has no business to propose under this item.

Adoption of the report (item 8)

The meeting is expected to adopt the text of its report, on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.